

## THE EDGE

The factory employs the desperate and the dangerous:  
a man out of a mental hospital,  
a man out of a prison,  
a man out of the hills,  
a man in a motorcycle gang,  
a man who sits in front of his machine  
sharpening his knife and throwing it  
into the wooden platform under his feet,  
a man who never talks,  
a man who is covering his body with tattoos,  
a man who is trying to become a writer.

## KINGS FOR A MINUTE

They are walking out of the steel mill  
after 10 hours of work,  
pants smeared with rust,  
fingers trembling  
from the pounding of heavy machinery.  
They wander out in front of the traffic,  
smiling and taking their time,  
scanning the far horizon  
with chins lifted,  
as if to say, "Go ahead and hit me,"  
as they stop traffic,  
turning and tapping each other and laughing  
in the middle of the street,  
feeling the fear  
of the people in the cars.

## RELIEF

The machinist at the machine next to me  
was always coming around  
sticking his face between me and the work I was trying  
to do to let me know how HE would do the job,  
distracting and confusing and enraging me  
with his useless and incompetent suggestions  
until I could barely perform the work I was doing.

But I finally lucked out,  
and Goodstone Aircraft Company made him Lead Man.  
Now its his JOB  
to give advice and guidance to me,  
so of course he never does.